GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4114
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
Sim Card Cloning
Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mobile users in the country are facing the problem of sim card cloning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the mechanism that are used to clone the sim; and

(d) the technical measures being taken by the Government along with the awareness provided to common people in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Madam, No such case of Cloning of Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) card has been reported.

(c) There are security features implemented on both the SIM itself and in Telecom Service Provider's (TSP) network which do not allow the cloning, though there are some applications which claim to copy the contents of the SIM in case of physical access to the SIM card. However this copying of contents of a SIM card does not result in cloning of SIM as technical measures for identification and authentication of the SIM have been implemented in telecom networks to protect SIM card.

(d) Technical measures as follows have been implemented in Telecom networks to protect SIMs:
i. Implementation of authentication Key (Ki) and ciphering Key (Kc) in a secure memory area of SIM.
ii. Implementation of crypto-algorithms on SIM with a self destruct feature in case of brute force method being attempted, exceeding a set value, for detection of Authentication key, Generation Key and Encryption Key.
iii. Implementation of a Personal Identification Number (PIN), which is user configurable and PIN Unblocking Key (PUK), which is provided by the Telecom Service Provider only. Wrong PIN attempts beyond a set value (three) leads to SIM block, which can be unblocked only by entering PUK. A wrong attempt of PUK beyond a set value (ten) makes the SIM card permanently disabled.
iv. Provision for only one SIM of a mobile number to be active in the network at any given time .

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